

REMARKS:

Status of claims

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated March 8, 2006, the Examiner objected to the declaration for not acknowledging the filing of any foreign application, and rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-11291735 (JP'735) in view of Hamilton et al.

Declaration

In a telephone interview of March 24, 2006, the Examiner instructed Applicant's agent, Jessica Stahnke, to review the declaration as scanned to PAIR, which copy of the declaration does not have the "yes" box checked in the "priority claimed" column. Applicant's file copy, however, does have the "yes" box checked. Applicant submits herewith a substitute copy of the declaration, taken from Applicant's file copy dated December 29, 2003.

JP'735

The Examiner referred to the portion of element 31 to the right of element 7 and connected to element 23 as anticipating the inventive air passage. However, the Examiner indicated that this portion of element 31 connects an upper side of element 23 of cylinder 22 and a lower side of element 23 of cylinder 22. The portion of element 31 does not connect an upper side and a lower side *of the cylinder*, but rather connects the upper side of the cylinder to element 7. JP'735 does not disclose or suggest "an air passage for connecting an upper side and lower side of said cylinder so that air in the upper space and lower space can be circulated" (inventive claim 1). Therefore claim 1, as well as its dependents, claims 2-4, are patentable over JP'735 and Hamilton et al.

Conclusions

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Authorization is granted to charge any outstanding fees due at this time for the continued prosecution of this matter to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (matter no. 060945-0145).

Respectfully submitted,



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